

# **ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME**

## **DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES**

### **NEWS RELEASE**



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#### **2016 Yukon River Summer Salmon Fishery News Release # 34**

#### **District 1 Commercial and Subsistence Fishing Schedule**

Districts Affected: Lower Yukon Area

As of June 23, the sonar project near Pilot Station has estimated a cumulative passage of approximately 109,000 Chinook salmon. This cumulative passage estimate is well above average for this date, but below average for years with early run timing. The cumulative passage of summer chum salmon is approximately 868,000 fish and indicates we are likely within our pre-season projection range of 1.3 to 1.8 million summer chum salmon based on early run timing.

The first three pulses of Chinook salmon have migrated out of District 1. Therefore, commercial gillnet opportunity is being provided in District 1 to target summer chum salmon with gillnets restricted to 5.5-inch or smaller mesh not exceeding 30 meshes in depth. This restricted gear option is to allow for summer chum salmon commercial opportunity that is more efficient than dip nets and beach seines, while also minimizing the incidental harvest of Chinook salmon. Any Chinook salmon caught in gillnet gear may be retained for subsistence use. Chinook salmon retained for subsistence use during the commercial gillnet opening must be recorded on a fish ticket as "kept but not sold".

Catch reports from these early commercial gillnet openings will be evaluated prior to the determination of future openings. Commercial fishermen in District 1 should stand by for short notice news releases on VHF and radio regarding further gillnet openings.

Two subsistence salmon gillnet periods have been announced in District 1. Subsistence salmon fishing will be closed between subsistence periods.

#### **Management Actions**

#### **District 1 (including the Black River) Subsistence Fishing Schedule:**

Effective 8:00 p.m. Thursday, June 23, until 2:00 p.m. Friday, June 24 subsistence salmon fishing is open for **one 18-hour period** with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Effective Sunday, June 26 from 3:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. midnight, subsistence salmon fishing is open for **one 9-hour period** with 6-inch or smaller mesh gillnets.

Chinook salmon caught in gillnets may be retained for subsistence use. Between the fishing periods subsistence salmon fishing is closed.

Subsistence fishermen may use 4-inch or smaller mesh gillnets not exceeding 60 feet in length to target non-salmon species during subsistence salmon closures.

### **District 1 (including the Black River) Commercial Fishing Schedule:**

Currently commercial salmon fishing is open for one 12-hour period with dip nets and beach seines:

- 3:00 p.m. Friday, June 24, until 3:00 a.m. Saturday, June 25

Chinook salmon are required to be released alive from dip net and beach seine gear and must be recorded on a fish ticket.

Effective at 6:00 p.m. Saturday, June 25, commercial summer chum salmon fishing in District 1 will open for a 6-hour commercial fishing period with gillnets restricted to 5.5-inch or smaller mesh size and not exceeding 30 meshes in depth. District 1 will be on the following commercial fishing schedule:

- Saturday, June 25, from 6:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. midnight

All Chinook salmon caught in gillnets may be retained for subsistence use. Chinook salmon retained from commercial gillnet gear must be recorded on a fish ticket as “kept but not sold”. The dip net and beach seine commercial fishery will be closed with the start of the gillnet commercial period.

All Chinook salmon caught and retained for subsistence use during the commercial gillnet openings must be marked by removing both tips of the tail fin. The tips must be removed before concealing the Chinook salmon from plain view or before transferring the salmon from the fishing site.

An announcement will be made by Sunday, June 26, regarding further commercial salmon fishing openings to target summer chum salmon.

The subsistence and commercial fishing schedule and recorded fishery announcements will be available 24 hours a day at **(866) 479-7387** (toll free outside of Fairbanks); in Fairbanks, call **(907) 459-7387**.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please call the ADF&G office in Emmonak at (907) 949-1320 or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Emmonak at (907) 949-1798.

This is an announcement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

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